

the bill as amended. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, LB 117 will be under attack this afternoon, not because of really even the new language but lashing out at, as you saw from Senator Chambers' words, old language, old language that has been before the court. The United States Supreme Court has called child pornography a serious national problem. In New York v. Ferber the court said that child pornography constitutes a permanent record of children's participation in sexual activity and the circulation of pornography exacerbates the harm to children. If the sexual abuse of children and pornography is to be curtailed, the production and distribution network must be eliminated. Investigators have identified several uses of child pornography. The first use by pedophiles is for sexual arousal and gratification. While some pedophiles only collect child pornography and fantasize through it, many have used it as a device to aid in the production of their own child pornography. Child pornography is often used as a part of a method of seducing child victims. A child who is reluctant to engage in sexual activity with an adult or to pose for sexually explicit photos can sometimes be convinced by viewing other children having "fun" participating in the activity. From a very early age, children are taught to respect and believe material contained in books and will thus have the same beliefs about child pornography. A pedophile offender will use child pornography in which the children appear to be having a good time. The offender uses this material to lower the inhibitions of the child and entice him or her into a desired activity. Children who view this material are also subject to a certain amount of peer pressure as they see other children engaged in the activity. Child pornography is often used to illustrate the activities in which the pedophile wishes the child to engage. In such instances, a pedophile offender shows the child the pornography and asks the child to imitate the pictures. Pornographic depictions of a child may be used to blackmail the child. The pedophile offender will use the pictures to intimidate the child. The pedophile offender will threaten the child with showing the pictures to others if the child does not cooperate. Child pornography is also seen as a valuable commodity among pedophiles. Visual depictions may be traded or sold between collectors. This subjects a child to repeated victimization by countless numbers of pedophiles and makes the child the object of the pedophile's sexual fantasies. Child pornography which may have originated as a homemade item may